

LIBRA.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKFASTLEIGH
for the year 1947.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report as your Medical Officer for the year 1947.

Area: 1365 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (30th June 1947) 2557.

Population (Census 1931) 2406.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) 848.

Rateable Value £13038.

Sum represented by a penny rate £51. 5. 10.795.

It records great progress in housing and the adequate distribution of water to all parts of the Urban District.

Vital Statistics are good and no serious infectious disease has been notified.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live births (legitimate)	40	18	22
(illegitimate)	2	1	1
Still births (legitimate)	2	1	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age (legitimate)	2	-	2

Birth Rate per 1000 Civilian Population:-

Live births	16.54
Still births	.79

Deaths	Total.	M.	F.
	29	12.	17.

Death Rate per 1000 Civilian Population 11.48

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Live births: 47.61

Comparative Rates for England and Wales during 1947

Birth Rate	20.5
Death Rate	12
Infantile Mortality Rate	41

Causes of Death

Diseases of the heart	11
Pneumonia - all varieties	5
Cancer	3
Bronchitis	2
Cardiac Haemorrhage	2
Tuberculosis	2
Premature Birth	1
Congenital defects	1
Others	2

The general health of the District has been good, the only cases of infectious disease notified being:-

Measles	2
Whooping cough	9

Diphtheria Immunisation is carried out at the Welfare Centre at schools and by the local practitioners and it is estimated that at least 90% of all children in the District have been immunised and it is expected that the 100% ideal will be reached during the current year.

Housing.

The severe weather and shortage of labour and materials delayed the housing programme, but thirty houses are in process of erection and the first block will be ready for occupation by the end of the year.

Approval for the erection of forty Cornish Unit houses on the same site has been obtained, and the work of preparing the site has been commenced.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year Messrs. Balfours have been engaged in reviewing the scheme which they had prepared in 1939 for remodelling the sewage disposal works and good progress has been made.

A revision was necessary as the amount of trade effluent had altered owing to the closure of the Paper Mills and also due to the fact that a neighbouring Council had made enquiries

as to a possible amalgamation: after much discussion however this was not found to be practicable.

During the year the main sewer from Buckfast, a short portion of which lies in the bed of the River Dart, was broken by a fall of rock and extensive and expensive repairs had to be made.

Good work has been done on the irrigation meadows and pollution of the River Dart has been prevented.

Water Supply.

The water supply is sufficient in quantity and good in quality. It is collected by land pipes laid in a moorland moss, which flow into a collecting chamber at the source, from which it is led by iron pipes to a closed reservoir.

All the houses except a few outlying farms and cottages now have a piped supply and the distribution is now good through the whole District.

The Liming and Chlorination plant installed at the reservoir worked well and repeated analyses prove that the water delivered to the consumers is free from any contamination.

During the early part of the year the new main from the reservoir to Higher Buckfast was completed and the long standing grievance of the inhabitants of that part of the District has now been removed. Many suffered considerable hardship during the severe winter months and efforts to increase the supply through the old main by means of booster pumps proved insufficient and water cart supply had to be used frequently. This unfortunate experience cost the Council approximately £1200.

